

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 SIG-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /094 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:GWCHAPMAN:LB
APPROVED BY EUR:REBARBOUR
EUR/SE:RCEWING
H:NCLEDSKY
C:RHOPPER

-----004481 271623Z /50

R 270111Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY

SUBJECT:DENKTASH VISIT TO WASHINGTON, MAY 25

1. DURING ONE-DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON, MAY 25 TURKISH
CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH MET WITH HIRC, CLARK CLIFFORD, AND
SENATOR MATHIAS. SMALL RECEPTION WAS HELD IN HIS HONOR AT
TURKISH EMBASSY. DENKTASH MAY RETURN TO WASHINGTON JUNE 6
FOR FURTHER MEETINGS ON THE HILL.

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2. MEETING WITH HIRC LASTED ONE HOUR, WITH ELEVEN MEMBERS
OF COMMITTEE PRESENT. DENKTASH WAS REASONABLE, MODERATE AND
FORTHCOMING THROUGHOUT, AND SEEMED TO MAKE VERY POSITIVE IM-
PRESSION. HE DESCRIBED IN EVEN AND UNEMOTIONAL TONES THE
CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAD LIVED PRIOR
TO 1974; HE EXPLAINED APRIL 13 PROPOSALS, EMPHASIZING THE
WIDE MARGIN OF FLEXIBILITY BUILT INTO THEM; AND HE UNDER-

SCORED HIS READINESS TO RESUME THE DIALOGUE WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND TO MEET WITH KYPRIANOU AT ANY TIME. QUESTIONING THAT FOLLOWED WAS FRIENDLY. CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SUMMARIZED MAIN POINTS OF MEETING AND GAVE DENKTASH VERY FAVORABLE RATING.

3. AT MEETING WITH CLIFFORD, DENKTASH SAID THAT HE HAD APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF HIRC AND THAT HE FELT HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMMUNICATED HIS FLEXIBILITY AND DESIRE TO RESUME DIALOGUE. HE SUMMARIZED CURRENT TURKISH CYPRIOT POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS, EMPHASIZING THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE INTRANSIGENT PARTY AND THAT SOMEONE (U.S.) WOULD NEED TO "CUT THE BRANCH ON WHICH THEY WERE SITTING." HE NOTED THAT A MEETING BETWEEN ECEVIT AND KYPRIANOU WOULD IMPLY REVERSAL OF THE WHOLE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, WHICH WERE FOUNDED ON THE INTERCOMMUNAL FORUM. KYPRIANOU, BASICALLY, WAS EMBARKED ON AN EGO-SATISFACTION TRIP, SAID DENKTASH.

4. REFERRING TO HIS EARLIER MEETING WITH CLIFFORD IN FEBRUARY 1977, DENKTASH NOTED THAT HE AND THE WHOLE TURKISH SIDE HAD BEEN UNDER GREAT STRESS AT THAT TIME. IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS AFTER HIS INAUGURATION PRESIDENT CARTER HAD BEEN SEEN BY THE TURKS AS BEING COMPLETELY PRO-GREEK, AND HENCE THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION AS TO THE PURPOSES OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION. DENKTASH SAID THAT HIS VIEWS OF THE AD-CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTRATION HAD SINCE BEEN PROVED WRONG, AND THAT HE NOW RECOGNIZED THAT THE TURKISH SIDE COULD HAVE PERFORMED CONSIDERABLY BETTER IN EARLY 1977. (CLIFFORD LATER TOLD DEPT-OFF THAT HE APPRECIATED THIS APOLOGY BY DENKTASH FOR HIS BAD BEHAVIOR IN FEBRUARY 1977).

5. IN RESPONDING TO DENKTASH'S PRESENTATION, CLIFFORD REVIEWED THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO SEEK REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO AND NOTED THE ARGUMENTS THAT HE WAS EMPLOYING WITH CONGRESS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CONFRONTED WITH NO EASY TASK, BUT THAT WE WERE COMMITTED TO OUR PRESENT COURSE AND WOULD PERSIST. ANYTHING FURTHER THAT THE TURKISH SIDE COULD DO TO DEMONSTRATE ITS FLEXIBILITY ON CYPRUS WOULD BE MOST VALUABLE; WE HAD TO BE ABLE TO SHOW THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO OUR DECISION TO SEEK REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO.

6. WHEN ASKED BY CLIFFORD ABOUT HIS HEALTH, DENKTASH SAID THAT HE WAS SUFFERING FROM CALCIUM DEPOSITS IN HIS SPINE--AN AILMENT HE ATTRIBUTED TO HIS DAYS AS A WRESTLER. HE HAD HAD TREATMENTS IN LONDON. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE135662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GWCHAPMAN:LB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780224-1297
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780511/aaaaaisc.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ef6b3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2536586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DENKTASH VISIT TO WASHINGTON, MAY 25
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US, (DENKTASH, RAUF)
To: NICOSIA USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef6b3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014